

Washington Horse Racing Commission
Policy/Interpretive Statement 2007-02
Licensing Requirement for Initial License

WAC 260-36-060 Application for license – Stewards’ review, states that all applications for an initial license submitted by trainers, assistant trainers, jockeys, apprentice jockeys, jockey agents, exercise riders, pony riders or outriders must be reviewed by the stewards to determine if the applicant is qualified to perform the duties of each license. In addition, the applicant may be required to

1. Pass a written exam;
2. Appear for an oral interview; and/or
3. Demonstrate skills required for the license.

The following will be the policy of the Washington Horse Racing Commission (WHRC) in applying WAC 260-36-060:

Trainer

In order to obtain a trainer’s license an applicant must have held a license (e.g., owner, groom etc.) in the horse racing industry for a minimum of three years that would indicate an understanding of day-to-day training procedures, or have held an active assistant trainers license for at least one year. A steward will also interview the applicant to help determine the applicant’s qualifications for the license.

In addition, a steward may require an applicant to pass the written trainers test with a minimum score of 80%. The applicant may also be required to pass a practical test demonstrating the required skills for handling, bridling, saddling, and applying both standing and race day bandages. *If the applicant fails either the written or practical test he/she will not be allowed to retake the test for at least sixty days.*

After successfully passing the written and practical tests, the trainer must pay all license and fingerprint fees, Labor and Industries premiums, submit fingerprints, if required, and pass a criminal history records information background check.

Assistant Trainer

In order to obtain an assistant trainer’s license an applicant must have held a license (e.g., owner, groom, etc.) for a minimum of two years in the horse racing industry that would indicate an understanding of day-to-day training procedures. A steward will also interview the applicant to help determine the applicant’s qualifications for the license. The applicant must obtain a recommendation with intent to hire in writing from a WHRC licensed trainer.

In addition, a steward may require an applicant to pass a written trainer’s test with a minimum score of 75%. The applicant may also be required to pass a practical test demonstrating the required skills for handling, bridling, saddling, and applying both standing and race day

bandages. *If the applicant fails either the written or practical test he/she will not be allowed to retake the test for at least sixty days.*

After successfully passing the written and practical tests, the assistant trainer must pay the groom and assistant trainer license and fingerprint fees, submit fingerprints, if required, and pass a criminal history records information background check.

Jockeys

In order to obtain a jockey's license an applicant must be at least eighteen years of age and must have held an apprentice jockey's license and ridden the required number of winners as specified in WAC 260-32-370. The applicant must also be engaged to ride in a race by at least one WHRC licensed trainer.

If approved, the applicant must pay the jockey license and fingerprint fees, submit fingerprints, if required, and pass a criminal history records information background check.

Apprentice Jockeys

In order to obtain an apprentice jockey's license an applicant must be at least eighteen years of age and must have held an exercise rider's license for a minimum of one year or have equivalent experience. A steward will also interview the applicant to help determine the applicant's qualifications for the license. The applicant must obtain a recommendation in writing from at least one WHRC licensed trainer. Finally, the applicant must have an apprentice jockey endorsement form completed with all the required signatures.

If approved, the applicant must pay the apprentice jockey license and fingerprint fees, submit fingerprints, if required, and pass a criminal history records information background check.

When an applicant has completed the above requirements and has a pending riding engagement, a temporary license will be issued. The applicant must ride a minimum of three races for evaluation before the apprentice certificate and apprentice jockey license will be issued.

Exercise Rider

In order to obtain an exercise rider's license an applicant must have experience galloping racehorses at a training center or other facility to ensure that the rider is capable of galloping on the racetrack. A steward will also interview the applicant to help determine the applicant's qualifications for the license. The applicant must obtain a recommendation in writing from at least one WHRC licensed trainer. Finally, the applicant must have an exercise rider endorsement form completed with all the required signatures.

In addition, a steward may require an applicant to pass a written exercise rider test with a minimum score of 80%. *If the applicant fails either the written or practical test he/she will not be allowed to retake the test for at least fourteen days.*

If approved, the applicant must pay the exercise rider license and fingerprint fees, submit fingerprints, if required, and pass a criminal history records information background check.

A first-time exercise rider, after gaining initial approval from the board of stewards, for a period of a minimum thirty days, shall wear a garment supplied by the commission, either a helmet cover or vest, of a design and color that will identify them to other individuals on the track during training hours as newly licensed exercise riders.

Pony Rider

In order to obtain a pony rider license an applicant must have experience ponying racehorses at a training center or other facility to ensure the rider is capable of ponying horses on the racetrack. A steward will also interview the applicant to help determine the applicant's qualifications for the license. The applicant must also obtain a recommendation in writing from at least one WHRC license trainer. Finally, the applicant must have a pony rider endorsement form completed with all the required signatures.

In addition, a steward may require an applicant to pass a written pony rider test with a minimum score of 80%. *If the applicant fails the written test he/she will not be allowed to retake the test for at least fourteen days.*

If approved, the applicant must pay the pony rider license and fingerprint fees, submit fingerprints, if required, and pass a criminal history records information background check.

A first-time pony rider, after gaining initial approval from the board of stewards, for a period of a minimum of thirty days, shall wear a garment supplied by the commission, either a helmet cover or vest, of a design and color that will identify them to other individuals on the track during training hours as newly licensed pony riders.

Jockey Agent

A steward will interview the applicant to determine the applicant's qualifications for the license. The applicant must have an agreement with a jockey to be his/her agent.

In addition, a steward may require an applicant to pass a written jockey agent test with a minimum score of 80%. *If the applicant fails the written test they will not be allowed to retake the test for at least fourteen days.*

If approved, the applicant must pay the jockey agent license and fingerprint fees, submit fingerprints, if required, and pass a criminal history records information background check.

Adopted by the Washington Horse Racing Commission
January 8, 2016